

ENERGY STAR for Homes/RESNET Meeting: 2006 Proposed Threshold

Date:	April 28, 2005
Location:	EPA Office at 1310 L St., NW, Washington, D.C.; Room 956
Time:	9:00 a.m.
Attendees:	<div> <div>EPA:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Lee • Sam Rashkin • Jon Passe • Brian Ng • Glenn Chinery • Zachary Shadid </div> <div> <div>RESNET:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Baden • Philip Fairey • Ben Adams • Daran Wastchak • Kelly Parker </div> <div> <div>I CF Consulting:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Meisegeier • Sarah O'Connell </div>

Agenda

What	How	Time
<i>Welcome -- Introductions</i>	Around the room	:10
<i>Overview of Agenda and Meeting Process</i>	Review/Agree	:10
<i>Background:</i>		
<i>EPA Needs for New Threshold</i> - EPA Criteria overview	Short Presentation	:15
<i>RESNET Needs for New Threshold</i> - RESNET Criteria overview	Short Presentation	:15
<i>Clarify/Classify Joint EPA/RESNET Needs</i> - Consensus - General Agreement - Strong Differences	Discussion	:45
<i>Break</i>		:15
<i>Identify Potential Framework Options that Best Meets Needs of EPA and RESNET</i>	Brainstorm	:45
<i>Explore Preferred Framework for Proposed Threshold</i>	Discussion/ Advocate Positions	:30
<i>Identify Timing Issues for Implementation</i>	Brainstorm	:15
<i>Identify "What's Next?" Action Steps</i>	Brainstorm	:15
<i>Meeting Review/Close</i>	Review	:10

EPA Needs for New Threshold

- I. Continue to sustain market transformation for labeled homes that provide meaningful carbon savings compared to prevailing national code
- II. Assure better performance/higher quality of labeled homes while maintaining cost-effectiveness
 - Address increasing complaints in homes meeting current HERS score metric
 - Meet customer expectations beyond energy efficiency (e.g., comfort, air quality, durability)
- III. Ensure HERS delivery system is a viable business
 - EPA believes ENERGY STAR's success depends on a strong value relationship between customers (e.g., builders) and delivery system (e.g., HERS raters/providers)
- IV. Ensure production builder compatibility
- V. Increase support for ENERGY STAR 'brand'
 - Address poor optics of EPA not consistently recommending ENERGY STAR qualified components
- VI. Minimize confusion regarding different thresholds for qualified homes across geographically close markets with similar/identical climates
- VII. Maintain advantages provided by both performance and prescriptive compliance paths:
 - EPA Assessment of Performance Path Advantages:
 - accommodates innovative technologies and design practices
 - allows optimized energy efficient designs where desired
 - allows customized designs matched to builder preferences
 - EPA Assessment of Prescriptive Path Advantages:
 - where innovation, optimization and customization not needed, allows more resources for increased inspections and testing
 - Identifies proven target technologies/practices
 - Supports marketing in terms understood by builders/home buyers

RESNET Needs for New Threshold: In Priority Order

I. Maintain National Measuring Stick of Home Energy Performance

The key priority of RESNET is to maintain the uniform method of measuring and comparing a home's energy performance. This is the essence of RESNET's mission as an organization. The creation of a uniform definition of a reference home by which all homes can be compared creates a national platform by which programs can measure the energy performance of homes and calculate energy and pollution savings. This feature will allow EPA to document the program's national performance in terms of energy and pollution savings. This allows other programs such as energy efficient mortgages, tax credits, state energy codes and utility programs to set a marker on the rating scale for home's performance. RESNET has worked hard to make this measuring tool to be as credible as it is today. This measuring stick allows for a consistency in all the nation's residential energy efficiency programs. While the rating score may not be a key marketing force in many markets the rating method allows raters to work with their builders in designing the most practical and cost-effective design for meeting ENERGY STAR's performance specifications. The rating method does not pre-select which measures which should be applied but rather gives the rater and the builder the option of selecting what makes the most sense for their market.

II. Maintain National Infrastructure of Standards, Accreditation, Certification, and Quality Assurance

RESNET sets the standards for quality in rating services. We have created the standards for the training and certification of raters, the procedures for rating providers to ensure the quality of rating services, and the technical specifications of rating software programs. The RESNET standards are recognized by the mortgage industry, state energy codes, public benefit programs, EPA, and Congress for the proposed tax credits.

III. The Continued Profitability of the Rating Industry and the Ability of Raters to Add Value to Builders as Energy Consultants

Since rating services are voluntary and private sector based, they must be profitable. ENERGY STAR has been a major factor in making rating services profitable. However, in order to be truly profitable a rater must be more than the inspection and testing of a home's energy performance. The most profitable businesses combine their rating services with consulting to builders on home energy performance.

Clarify/Classify Joint EPA/RESNET Needs

- EPA and RESNET both gained a better understanding of each other's needs regarding the new specification.
- Participants identified three issues as needing additional discussion during the meeting:
 - EPA Point I: The issue of timing.
 - EPA Point V: The specific requirements for products in the performance package.
 - EPA Point V: The details of the thermal bypass inspection.

Identify and Explore Potential Framework Options that Best Meet Needs of EPA and RESNET

- EPA and RESNET participants reached consensus on a framework that provides for both performance and prescriptive paths to achieving ENERGY STAR:
 - EPA will maintain a performance path based on the HERS score (EPA will use the new Expanded HERS Score, and make a determination whether a single national score or multiple regional scores will be used).
 - Within the performance path, RESNET agrees to support EPA requiring some combination of ENERGY STAR labeled products, as well as setting maximum allowable levels for envelope and duct leakage.
 - EPA will set a prescriptive path, based on its original proposed specification (provided that it meets or exceeds the performance path within a reasonable dead band).
 - The proposed Thermal Bypass Checklist (amended, based on technical comments received) and equipment right-sizing will be required in both the performance and prescriptive paths.

Identify Timing Issues for Implementation

- EPA and RESNET agreed that some technical issues related to the new HERS Guidelines remain to be resolved.
- EPA and RESNET agreed that a longer period was needed for implementation of the new ENERGY STAR guidelines and that allowances should be made for developments/contracts underway.

Identify “What’s Next?” Action Steps

- EPA will develop and vet a revised timeline for release and implementation of the new ENERGY STAR guidelines.
 - EPA plans to revise the ENERGY STAR for Homes guidelines and release them for an additional, limited, comment period. Upon completion of the comment period, EPA will consider any additional feedback received, with a goal of having the revised guidelines officially released in July, 2005.
- EPA will develop and vet an interim policy on how to handle the NAECA 13 SEER requirement that will go into place in January in light of the delayed implementation of the new ENERGY STAR guidelines.
- EPA will develop and vet a set of proposed performance path requirements that will include ENERGY STAR labeled products and maximum allowable levels for envelope and duct leakage.
- EPA will respond to technical comments received on the Thermal Bypass Checklist and make changes as needed.
- RESNET and ICF will continue to coordinate on technical issues related to the HERS protocol.